DEC. 19, 1946: Beginning of the Nationwide Resistance War against the French Colonialists.

DEC. 20, 1960: Founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

DEC. 22, 1944: Establishment of the Viet Nam People's Army.

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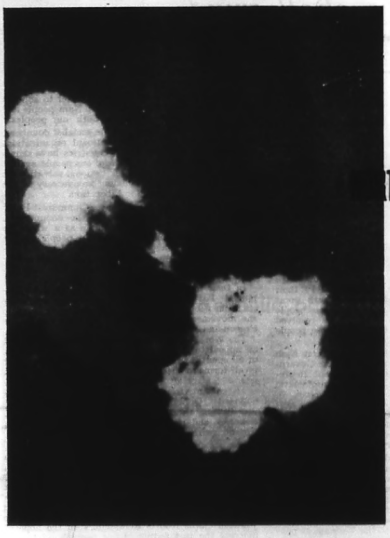


Commemorating the Three Glorious Days of the Vietnamese People

December 19, 20 and 22:

NORTH Vietnam

The Viet Nam People's Army Inflicts Heavy Losses on the Yankees in Their Recent Escalation:

47 U.S. PLANES DOWNED IN 7 DAYS INCLUDING TWO B.52 SUPER-BOMBERS

(PAGE 8)

The invincible people's armed forces

Photos *(top)*: *North Viet Nam A.A. batteries in action.*

(bottom): *South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. fighters.*

SOUTH Vietnam

THE P.L.A.F. CONTINUE TO DEAL HARD BLOWS AT THE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND THEIR QUISLINGS:

★ *On Dec. 8 and 9, in the Mekong Delta*

One Thousand Enemy Soldiers Put out of Action, 10 Helicopters Downed at Thac Lac

★ **One Puppet Battalion and Two Companies Wiped Out Near Saigon** *(Dec. 15)*

(PAGE 8)

We are strong because of the justice of our cause, the unity of our entire people from North to South, our traditions of undaunted struggle, and the broad sympathy and support of the fraternal socialist countries and progressive people throughout the world. We shall win!

(President HO CHI MINH's Appeal of July 17, 1966)

THANKS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN THE WORLD

GREAT SUPPORT STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT

Nhan Dan Editorial of December 23, 1967

THE victories recorded by the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the U.S. aggressors are closely linked with the great, all-sided support and assistance in the moral, political and material fields given by the Soviet Union, China and the other brother socialist countries. It is closely associated with the valuable support of the national liberation movement, the working class and the people all over the world. This ever-increasing support and assistance is an important factor of success for our people. Our success is also that of international solidarity.

ONCE again, the mighty strength of international support has been clearly proven in these days of December, on the occasion of the 7th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. The brother countries have strongly manifested their will to strengthen solidarity with the Vietnamese people and their determination to support them in their fight against the U.S. aggressors till complete victory. The Vietnamese people are deeply impressed by the sincere, warm and great support and assistance of the fraternal Soviet people. In a solemn atmosphere at the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Great October Revolution in the Kremlin on November 3, 1967, comrade L. I. Brezhnev pointed out: "The Soviet Union is fully resolved to give maximum aid and support to the fraternal Vietnamese people in their struggle for a just cause. This aid will continue until the U.S. imperialists cease their criminal and dishonouring adventure and get out of Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people are fighting for a just cause and will be victorious. There can be no doubt about it."

In their message to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, greeting the 7th founding anniversary of the South Vietnam N.F.L., comrades L. I. Brezhnev, N. V. Podgorny and A. N Kosygin pointed out: "The Soviet people express their admiration for the courage of the South Vietnamese patriots, and their solidarity with the latter's just struggle against armed intervention of the U.S. imperialists. Experience of history has demonstrated that no force can subjugate a people who are ready to put all their energies in the struggle for the freedom, independence and prosperity of the Fatherland."

The Vietnamese people are deeply moved by the energetic, strong and wholehearted support given by the Chinese people. In his message to President Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman Mao Tse-tung warmly welcomed the victories of the people of South Viet Nam and Viet Nam as a whole, and pointed out: "By their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation the Vietnamese people have set a brilliant example for the oppressed peoples and oppressed nations the world over in their struggle for liberation. We firmly support you. We are neighbouring countries as closely related as the lips and the teeth. Our two peoples are brothers sharing weal and woe. The fraternal South Vietnamese people and the entire fraternal Vietnamese people can rest assured that your struggle is ours. The 700 million Chinese people are a powerful mainstay for the Vietnamese people, the vast expanse of China's territory is their reliable rear."

At the grand meeting held in Peking, Premier Chou En-lai also emphasized: "In the common struggle, the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples support and co-operate with each other and have forged unbreakable militant friendship... In their march forward, even though fraught with great danger and hardship, the 700 million Chinese people armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought, are resolved to pool their efforts with the Vietnamese people to defeat vicious U.S. imperialism."

The people of South Viet Nam and of Viet Nam as a whole are highly elated at the Chinese Government's decision to consider the Permanent Representation of the N.F.L. as an official diplomatic mission equal in rank to foreign embassies in Peking. They are deeply moved by the warm welcome given by the Chinese Party, Government and people to the South Vietnamese people's delegation during its visit to China on the occasion of the N.F.L.'s founding anniversary.

In their messages to President Nguyen Huu Tho, the Party and State leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cuba and the other fraternal countries have warmly praised the brilliant victories recorded by the Vietnamese people in their sacred resistance war against U.S. imperialism, clearly shown the will of the peoples of socialist countries to unite closely with the Vietnamese people and increase support to them so as to defeat the U.S. aggressors. They have asserted total support to the N.F.L. Political Programme and the stand of the D.R.V.N. Government on the settlement of the Viet Nam issue. Over recent years, the movement against U.S. imperialism and in support of Viet Nam has been seething continually, broadly and in varied forms and has taken deep roots in the daily life of the peoples of socialist countries. The commemoration of the N.F.L.'s founding anniversary offers occasion for the struggle of the people of fraternal countries united with the Vietnamese people in opposing U.S. imperialist aggression. In their capital cities and all over their countries, these people have held grand meetings, exhibitions, socials, and collections of material aid and organized extra work days in support of Viet Nam, etc. By so doing, they have expressed heartfelt sentiments to the Vietnamese people, warmly welcomed their victories as their own, and voiced high determination to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese people and devotedly support them.

ON the front against the U.S. imperialist aggressors — their common enemy — the solidarity among the Indo-Chinese peoples has been enhanced day after day. In his message to President Nguyen Huu Tho on the N.F.L.'s anniversary, Cambodia's Head of State Norodom Sihanouk has once again assured the South Vietnamese people of his fraternal solidarity, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk stressed: "The Khmer people's unreserved support to the South Vietnamese people has been clearly affirmed and will never change."

The message of the Neo Lao Haksat Central Committee expressed the joy of the Lao people — the close neighbour and friend sharing weal and woe with the Viet Nam people in the national salvation struggle against the common enemy — at the South Vietnamese people's great victories. Its message pointed out: "The Lao people are resolved to wipe out more enemy troops, in order to support the just struggle of the South Viet Nam people and to achieve common success for both our peoples."

Together with the people of the socialist countries, the Communist parties, international organizations and progressive people in all countries have shown warm support to the struggle of our people against the U.S. imperialists and for national salvation on the occasion of the 7th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam Front for Liberation.

The message from the Japanese Communist Party highlighted the determination of the communists, working class and people of Japan as a whole to strengthen their solidarity with our people against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and demand that the Sato government give up its policy of tailing after the U.S. in opposing the Vietnamese people.

In their messages, the French and British Communist Parties expressed full militant solidarity with our people and pledged themselves to step up the movement of support to Viet Nam among the French and British people.

The World Federation of Trade Unions has issued an appeal to the working people and trade unions of all countries to promote the movement of support in all forms to Viet Nam against the U.S. imperialists.

The Asian-African and Latin American People's Solidarity Organization has issued a statement "reaffirming the militant solidarity of the revolutionaries and peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America with the heroic South Vietnamese people."

Many meetings welcoming the South Viet Nam N.F.L. anniversary were held in Japan, Burma, Algeria, Congo (B) etc. On these days of December, many anti-U.S. demonstrations to support Viet Nam took place in Britain, France, West Berlin and West Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Australia... In the United States, though the Johnson clique resorts to slanders in the hope of blurring the just nature of our people's struggle and uses every way and means to check and suppress it, the movement against the war of aggression in Viet Nam has broadened with every passing day. This month, the American people have organized the "Stop the Draft—End the War" week throughout the United States, and the N.F.L. flag was carried aloft again by thousands of American demonstrators in front of the draft centre in New York.

During recent days, in their action to support Viet Nam against U.S. aggression, the people all over the world have displayed slogans demanding that the U.S. imperialists stop their war of aggression in Viet Nam, cease the bombing of North Viet Nam, and withdraw all their troops from South Viet Nam. They voiced support for the N.F.L. Political Programme and urged recognition of the Front as the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, and support for the 4-point stand of the D.R.V.N. The prestige of the N.F.L. has further increased. The justice of our cause is blazing more and more all over the five continents.

THE strong and diversified manifestations of international solidarity and support toward our people on the occasion of the 7th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. have proved that the world people are unanimous in assessing that our patriotic struggle is an integral part, the focus and the front line of the revolutionary struggle of the working people and oppressed nations in the world against U.S. imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. The people in all countries consider our victory as that of the revolutionary forces all over the world, and in fact, they have gathered into a front supporting Viet Nam against U.S. aggression. The more the U.S. feverishly steps up and expands the war, the more the people of the socialist countries and the world increase their support to us.

THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY HAS FOILED ALL THE U.S. "ESCALATIONS"

MORE than 1,200 days have elapsed since August 5, 1964, when the Johnson Administration engineered the "Tonkin Gulf incident" as a pretext to attack the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Over these 1,200 days Johnson has had to resort to many quibbles from "retaliation" to "punishment," but all his "escalations" against North Viet Nam have been successively laid bare.

More than 13 years ago, the Viet Nam People's Army won a brilliant exploit at Dien Bien Phu by defeating the French expeditionary corps assisted by the American imperialists. After the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, acting up to its pledges, regrouped its armed forces north of the 17th parallel and waited for the general elections to take place in July 1956. However, the Geneva accords were sabotaged by the American imperialists and the Ngo Dinh Diem puppet clique. These U.S. stooges drowned the South Vietnamese people in blood with repression, terrorism, detention and massacre. The South Vietnamese people, compelled to defend their lives and the independence of their Fatherland, rose up in arms and scored success after success. All the U.S.-puppet hopes for a "March to the North" were scattered to the ground. Masters and servants suffered bitter setbacks upon bitter setbacks. Like a wild beast held at bay, the American aggressors plotted to strike at the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Their scheme was transparent: to partition Viet Nam and turn South Viet Nam into a military base to attack the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the socialist camp from South-East Asia. Relying on their considerable military and economic potential, they thought they could bomb and strafe the Vietnamese people into surrender. But in South Viet Nam the People's Liberation Armed Forces have dealt them staggering blows, while in North Viet Nam the Viet Nam People's Army promoting the glorious tradition of the Liberation Armed Propaganda Unit (founded on December 22, 1944), has foiled all the "escalations" of the American imperialists.

Right on the first day of the U.S. war of destruction (August 5, 1964), the Viet Nam People's Army downed 8 American planes and captured air pirate Alvarez. When the Yankee aggressors launched their massive strikes against the North (February 7, 1965), the Viet Nam People's Army grounded 22 U.S. planes in three days (February 7, 8 and 12). Since then, each time the American imperialists sustained a heavy setback in South Viet Nam, they go a rung higher in their criminal escalation against the North. Not only do they strike at dykes to destroy crops, but they also hit hospitals, schools, churches... So far they have razed more than 127 hospitals, bombed over 7,560 schools, destroyed more than 30 churches and 27 pagodas. They have resorted to every kind of weapons from demolition bombs, pellet bombs, to napalm bombs, phosphorous bombs. They have fired all kinds of rockets. They have used every type of aircraft including the B-52 giant strategic bomber. They have shelled North Viet Nam territory from their artillery positioned in the South, bombarded the coast from their warships, mined the rivers. They have raided the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from south to north, first small towns then the cities of Nam Dinh, Hai Phong, and finally Hanoi capital. In brief, they have stopped at nothing in their attempt to subdue the North Vietnamese people.

Devotedly helped by the people, the Viet Nam People's Army have inflicted due punishment on the aggressors. More than 2,600 U.S. planes have been shot down - the dust in the North, including three B-52 super strato-fortresses. Off the coast, many U.S. cruisers and destroyers were set afire or damaged like the *Canberra*, *Saint Paul*, *Keppler*, *Stoddard*, *Osbourn*, *Duncan*, *Wadell*, *Turner Joy*...

The American air marauders have tried every manoeuvre to get off unscathed, but they have not been able to escape thunder blows from various arms of the Viet Nam People's Army. The more numerous they come in, the heavier are their losses. At low altitude they are punished by the militia and self-defence. At medium height they are under anti-aircraft fire. Should they fly higher they are hunted by the air force and the missile units. In separate engagements, the clever and ingenious combination of the Viet Nam People's Army various arms has also got the better of such U.S. crack pilots as hero Major James Kasler, Colonel Edward B. Burdett, Colonel John Peter Flynn.

In their emulation to foil the American aggressors' "escalations", the militia and self-defence have achieved fairly remarkable exploits. Between November 7 and 21, 1967, they downed 21 U.S. modern planes with small arms, which shows that man is the decisive factor in this war. To cite another evidence: On August 2, 1967 the militia in Huong Khe district, Ha Tinh province, brought down Colonel Wallace Hunds, and in ten days (October 14 and 24, 1967) the platoon of old militiamen in Hoang Hoa district, Thanh Hoa province, knocked down 2 U.S. planes.

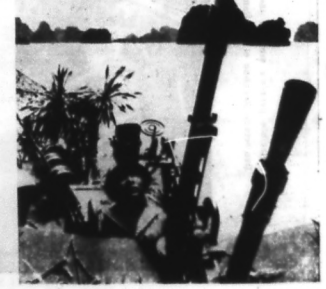
While the North Vietnamese armymen and people were successfully coping with the American aggressors' "escalations," bringing in a bumper autumn crop and developing regional industry, health service, education... the South Vietnamese armed forces and people killed or wounded more than 40,000 enemy troops in the first two months of the current dry season and recorded resounding exploits this December. Obviously, all the Yankee imperialists' "escalations" in the North cannot extricate them from their predicament in the South, but instead invite more heavy and shameful setbacks.

The Hanoi armed forces and people's shooting down of 69 enemy planes out of the 262 grounded in North Viet Nam in the past two months, is a clear indication that this city deserves to be the heroic capital of a heroic nation.

The Viet Nam People's Army has fulfilled the task entrusted to it by the Vietnamese people in the fight against U.S. aggression. Heir to a long-standing tradition of victorious resistance against foreign aggression and to the glorious tradition of the Viet Nam Liberation Armed Propaganda Unit—which brought success to the historic August Revolution — the Viet Nam People's Army which has had to its credit the splendid Dien Bien Phu victory will fulfil its task as laid down by President Ho Chi Minh: "Resolutely to accomplish the glorious mission of the nation: to defeat American aggression."

(*) *Established on Dec. 22, 1944 during the war of liberation against the Franco-Japanese aggressors, the Liberation Armed Propaganda Unit was the embryo of the present Viet Nam People's Army.*

The Invincible People's Army of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam



Photos: *Top: People's militia*
Left: Missile
Right: Navy

FAITHFUL TO THEIR TRADITIONS OF HEROISM

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE MORE RESOLVED THAN EVER TO DEFEAT COMPLETELY THE U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS

Dec. 22, 1944 — *Founding of the first units of the Viet Nam Liberation Armed Propaganda Brigade, precursor of the present Viet Nam People's Army, in the high tide of the guerilla war which was quickly spreading throughout the country and at a time when the people were enthusiastically advancing toward the General Insurrection of August 1945 to overthrow the rule of the Japanese fascists and their henchmen and to found the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on September 2, 1945.*

Dec. 19, 1946 — *The Nationwide Resistance started. The Vietnamese people, from the China border in the North to the Ca Mau Point in the South, in response to President Ho Chi Minh's "rather die than be enslaved once again" appeal, rose up against the French colonialist aggressors and waged a protracted and hard war of resistance which, however, ended in victory and together with other great successes resulted in the liberation of North Viet Nam and led to the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements recognizing the national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people.*

Dec. 20, 1960: *The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the banner rallying all the patriotic and democratic forces in South Viet Nam, was founded. It adopted a correct line which was to combine armed and political struggles, and waged a second war of resistance against the neo-colonialist war of aggression of U.S. imperialism and the cruel rule of their lackeys, for the liberation of South Viet Nam and the complete liberation of the country.*

THESE were glorious pages in the history of national liberation of the Vietnamese people, fine expression of the determination to fight victoriously for the independence and freedom of the country. These were also glorious succeeding stages on the road of protracted revolution by means of armed and political violence which the Vietnamese people have followed tirelessly for their survival. This is precisely the road which has led our people to the greatest victories ever seen in the national history. It is along this road that a small nation which is united and enjoys a correct leadership has successively defeated the Japanese fascists and the French colonialists, and is today defeating the aggression of U.S. imperialism, the biggest and cruellest imperialists.

Continually upholding the heroic tradition and promoting the dauntless spirit of the nation, the Vietnamese people, bringing into full play the great victories already recorded, are rushing forward with an irresistible impetus to bring their resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, to complete victory.

In North Viet Nam the people and their glorious armed forces have been foiling all the sinister designs of Washington in its air war of destruction. They have frustrated the U.S. scheme to hit at their source of life, economic and defence potentials in an attempt to shatter our whole people's determination to fight for independence and freedom, and also to prevent the North Vietnamese people's assistance to the struggle of their Southern kith and kin against the aggression of the imperialists from the other shore of the Pacific.

(Continued page 6)

Invincible people's army of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

EVERYTHING FOR VICTORY!
LET OUR PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES MARCH VALIANTLY FORWARD!

(Excerpt from the Dec. 22, 1967 order of the day of the Viet Nam People's Army High Command)

SINCE more than two years now, in the hope of getting out of their quagmire, the American imperialists have successively introduced U.S. expeditionary troops and foreign mercenaries into South Viet Nam and unleashed their aircraft and war vessels against North Viet Nam. All over the country, 31 million of our compatriots and people's armed forces, rising up as one man, flinching from neither sacrifice nor difficulty, have translated their revolutionary spirit into heroism and resourcefulness, and are resolved to defeat the professional army of U.S. imperialism. Having an indomitable heroism and a great initiative, they have achieved big successes in a very important stage of the U.S. "local war" in South Viet Nam and foiled the main objectives of the U.S. war of destruction in North Viet Nam. They are determined to defend their independence, freedom and national unity.

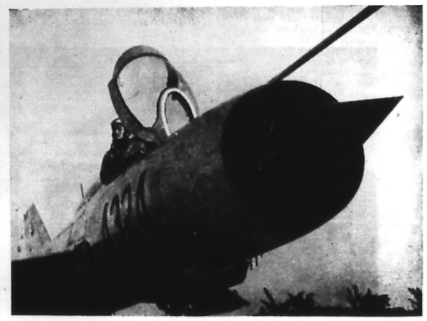
In face of our repeated offensives, the American aggressors are more and more in a quandary and passivity in the battlefield and meet with greater political isolation and heavier military setbacks. Their strategy is at a deadlock; their tactics comes to grief. Their potential is impaired. Their morale is sinking. The puppet administration is rotten. The puppet army is in a mess and disintegrating.

Inspired by their tradition of resolute struggle, and determined to win, our compatriots and people's armed forces are stronger and stronger in the course of fighting and win bigger and bigger victories. We have raised the people's war to a degree unknown so far and waged armed struggle and political struggle in all strategically important theatres of operations and created firm bases for final victory.

May all officers and men of the people's armed forces enthusiastically respond to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred call and to the resolute appeal made by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation at the beginning of the Winter-Spring campaign, and mount fierce and unremitting attacks on the enemy everywhere in order to annihilate him, in coordinated action with our compatriots throughout the country.

Be courageous in battle, recoilless in face of difficulties, resolute and cautious in decision making, punctilious in the elaboration of plans, heroic and resourceful in carrying them out, and do not in any case under-rate the enemy. To effectively commemorate the three historical days of our people, we are resolved, imbued with our love for the country and hatred for the enemy, to win greater and more resounding victories over the American aggressors and to carry through our revolutionary task of defending the North, liberating the South and paving the way for national reunification.

In the spirit of doing "everything for victory over the U.S. aggressors," let our people's armed forces march valiantly forward!



TO DEFEAT U.S. IMPERIALISM in Its Local War of Aggression HAS BECOME A REALITY

*Excerpts from President NGUYEN HUU THO's speech delivered on the occasion of the 7th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.**

PRESENT-DAY SITUATION

THE time the U.S. imperialists shifted to the strategy of "local war" of aggression against the South and escalate the war in the North is the most important period for us as well as for the enemy. The U.S. imperialists have dispatched to South Viet Nam nearly half a million G.I.s, raised the strength of U.S., puppet and satellite troops to over one million, made use of a huge quantity of modern war materials and resorted to extremely barbarous war means, with a view to creating a turning point in the war and winning a decisive victory within a short time. Our people and Liberation Armed Forces have gone through a hard trial. Looking back with enthusiasm, confidence and pride to the road we have travelled and all our situation and activities, we can make the following observation in order to assess our future trend:

1. ***We have won big and all-sided victories in the military, political and diplomatic fields.*** Our position is steadier and our forces stronger than ever before. Our enemy are in a great quandary and passiveness. They have failed in the most important stage of the "local war" strategy and will certainly meet with complete failure.

2. ***The victory won by our armed forces and people in the recent past is the victory of our political and military line of our fully correct guiding principles and policies,*** of our people's war which is developing to a very high degree and is full of creativeness. This victory is the triumph of the determination to fight and to win of a heroic people who prefer to sacrifice all rather than be enslaved. It is the triumph of the courage, intelligence and invincible force of an entire people, united as one man from North to South, fighting shoulder to shoulder to defeat the enemy and save the country. This victory is also the success of the sympathy, support and valuable assistance of our friends in all continents.

3. ***Our victory is the victory of the great national unity and of the Front which is consolidated ever more firmly and expanding unceasingly.*** The people in the liberated areas as well as in the towns and countryside still temporarily held by the enemy turn their mind to the Front and act according to its appeal. The Front has also joined action with many organizations, forces and individuals who, though still having different tendencies and political views, have united their actions to oppose the common enemy — the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their henchmen. The Front's prestige and influence in the international arena have risen ever higher. The Front is obviously the only genuine representative of the heroic South Vietnamese people.

The victories recently recorded are the steady basis to help our people defeat the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war and win complete victory. Through the fierce trial of strength, we have known the enemy and ourselves better and grasp more firmly the law of our people's struggle for self liberation. ***From being a possibility, the problem of defeating the U.S. "local war" of aggression has become a reality.*** We have all the basis to carry through the glorious mission entrusted to us by our people and to actively contribute to the movement of national independence and social progress and to the defence of world peace.

SCHEMES OF THE ENEMY

THOUGH sustaining bitter failures in both North and South Viet Nam, the American imperialists are still very mulish, cruel and perfidious. They repeat again and again that they continue "to stay in South Viet Nam" and "to keep their commitments, "etc... They are hatching new adventurous military plots, stepping up their war of aggression and hullabalooing to bring the war to the Kingdom of Cambodia and the whole Indo-Chinese peninsula.

In the South, they continue to raise the effectives of G.I.s and urge their satellites to send more mercenaries; they do their best to reorganize the puppet army so as to prevent its eventual collapse, increase what they call "combat efficiency" of the puppet army, actively carry out pressganging, send puppet soldiers to die in their place, consolidate the puppet administration, continue to carry out the "two-prong" program.** They openly provoke Cambodia in the military and political field, and use base means to threaten her independence and neutrality and continue to interfere in the affairs of Laos, thus aggravating the situation in Indo-China and South-East Asia.

The American imperialists are making very daugerous steps in the escalation of their war of destruction against North Viet Nam by launching repeated air raids on Hanoi, Hai Phong and other populated areas to kill our northern compatriots, including old people, women and children, and destroy the economic and cultural undertakings necessary to peaceful construction and our people's livelihood.

Pursuing their obsolete double-dealing policy, the American rulers never cease to trumpet about their "peace negotiations" in oder to hoodwink world opinion. But all this only exposes their deception, obduracy and perfidy.

The people of South Viet Nam and of Viet Nam as a whole deeply cherish peace. We eagerly desire peace to rebuild our country torn by over twenty years of war.

But the U.S. imperialists have sent their troops to invade our country. They have left no stone unturned to carry out their dark design in order to turn us into slaves and our country into their military base and new-type colony and perpetuate the partition of our country. ***For our survival and for the lasting happiness of younger generations, we have had to take up arms. Our goal is but to wrest back our sacred national rights and build up a prosperous country. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. The peace we are longing for is the peace in independence and freedom, not the kind of peace that makes us bow before the U.S. aggressors.***

So long as the U.S. imperialists are unwilling to end their aggressive war, withdraw from South Viet Nam all their troops and those of its satellites, dissolve all their military bases in South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference, our people are resolved to take up arms and fight to the end till complete victory.

This is the ***iron determination*** of our people. This is also the inviolable sacred right of our people as well as the people who love independence, freedom and justice all over the world.

We are a people that no force can subjugate, no allegation can deceive, no brutal force and no perfidious means can prevent from embarking on the road to final victory.

(Continued page 7)

* *Subheads and boldface emphases are ours.*

** *On the one hand, to "search and destroy" the P.L.A.F., on the other, to undermine the political infrastructure of the N.F.L. by mopping-ups called "pacification."*

South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. fighters

Photo: *Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. among the heroes of the P.L.A.F.*

★

N.F.L., BANNER OF INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE IN SOUTH VIET NAM

PHAM THANH VINH

A PROGRAMME OF NATIONAL PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE

IN the Manifesto adopted at its Founding Congress (1960), the N.F.L. made clear the content of its Political Programme for the realization of its historic mission: to free its compatriots from the U.S. puppet yoke.

The 10 points of the programme of action of the N.F.L. approved in 1960 unequivocally defined its major political lines concerning South Viet Nam's vital problems.

In August 1967, at its Extraordinary Congress, the N.F.L. passed a Political Programme which developed that of 1960 and reflected the great successes obtained in the struggle for national liberation.

The new situation, the step-up of the criminal war of aggression to which are directly committed a big U.S. expeditionary corps and satellite troops in South Viet Nam and the U.S. war of destruction against the D.R.V.N. have embittered the hatred of the Vietnamese people for the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys. An ever increasing number of people ask to join the ranks of the N.F.L. to support it or to take joint action with it against U.S. aggression. There is a pressing demand to broaden the great bloc of national union for final victory.

The 1967 Political Programme of the N.F.L. deals with four major problems:

1— Unity of the entire people for the struggle against U.S. aggression.

2— Building of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam.

3— Re-establishment of normal relations between North and South and eventual peaceful reunification of the country.

4— Pursuance of a foreign policy of peace and neutrality.

The N.F.L. was born of a struggle waged by all sections of the people of South Viet Nam against U.S. neo-colonialism and its lackeys. For this fundamental reason, its composition reflected right at its birth the diversity of social organizations which had taken part spontaneously in the common struggle—political, military, economic, social and cultural — against the U.S. imperialists.

By 1961, the Front had already 7 million members and sympathizers. At present, taking account of those who accept its leadership in enemy-occupied cities and regions, the N.F.L. enjoys the backing of over three-fourths of the South Viet Nam population.

Thus, the N.F.L. is a front of alliance of the broad masses of South Viet Nam, born of the people's struggle against the aggression by the U.S. imperialists, for the liberation of South Viet Nam from the American grip and the fascist regime of the puppets. It expresses the deep aspirations of the people of South Viet Nam and enjoys their full confidence.

Faced with this irrefutable fact, the U.S.-puppet propaganda seeks to belittle the political significance of the N.F.L. by accusing it of being a camouflaged communist creation. This charge familiar to American propaganda which terms communist all that opposes U.S. designs, in fact serves grossly as an excuse for U.S. aggression against the Vietnamese people.

The bitter failure of the Yankees in face of the struggle of the South Vietnamese people against brutal and barbarous U.S. aggression can be made plain by the support of the masses for the N.F.L., the justice of South Viet Nam's cause and the leadership of the struggle. These factors rise from the three fundamental aspects of the Political Programme of the N.F.L.: national,democratic and popular.

THE ORGANIZER AND LEADER OF A PEOPLE'S WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION AGAINST THE U.S. NEO-COLONIALIST WAR OF AGGRESSION

RELYING mainly on its own strength, the N.F.L. on the one hand resorts to the most practical and the most ingenious means of warfare within the reach of Vietnamese patriots and on the other hand chooses to combine the three forms of struggle: armed struggle, political struggle—not through Parliament but by violent mass demonstrations (sometimes accompanied with bloodshed)-and agitation work among the puppet troops.

Let us draw up a balance-sheet of the results of this struggle seven years after its emergence, so as to assess its principal gains and its prospects:

From January 1961 to April 1965: 550,000 enemy troops were put out of action (killed, wounded, prisoners and deserters), of them 4,890 Americans. In the two dry seasons of 1965—1966 and 1966 — 1967: 289,000 adverse soldiers were wiped out including 113,000 G.I.'s.

The Pentagon's statistics, though far below the truth, confirm U.S. failure in the "special war" and in the initial stage of the "local war."

On the other hand, the disintegration of the puppet army has been accelerated by the massive U.S. troop build-up. Following an on-the-spot investigation, the U.S. Armed Services Committee has reported that in 1966 there were about 120,000 deserters among the puppet troops. Another western source put the figure at 180,000. At the last Guam Conference, Westmoreland himself revealed that only 7 of the 150 puppet battalions were in a position to fight.

The area controlled by the aggressors and their puppets is shrinking daily in spite of the U.S. "pacification" plan. The report of the Senate Armed Services Committee acknowledges that the Viet Cong (i.e. the N.F.L.) controls 80 per cent of South Viet Nam's territory, and that the feuds within the puppet administration and army have more and more aggravated. According to the same American source, the regular forces of the N.F.L., the backbone of the "Viet Cong," far from being smashed by "search-and-destroy" operations, have been strengthened while the guerilla forces now run to hundreds of thousands.

A POWER AT THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE

ALL foreigners, correspondents, writers, historians and others — who had visited the South Viet Nam liberated areas, reported that they were able to move throughout the length and breadth of South Viet Nam and even in the vicinity of Saigon without leaving the liberated zone and in broad daylight. Thus the liberated zone constitutes vast areas linked with each other while the territory under U.S.-puppet control comprises only cities, towns, some sections of important roads; main towns are linked to one another only by air and waterways. Land communications now are only open to heavily escorted convoys...

The "pacification" plan has woefully failed. The *Washington Post* of April 7, 1967 remarked that in the Mekong Delta, Saigon controlled only the cities, district towns and some limited areas. Apart from the Mekong Delta, the Western High Plateaux, the mountainous or marshy regions are well-known as "Viet Cong" territories. The existence of a vast liberated zone is now beyond dispute, even for U.S. authorities.

Even inside the cities, the N.F.L. wields considerable authority. Nobody forgets the waves of demonstrations against the Saigon regime during which the urban population, in defiance of the puppet repressive troops, shouted N.F.L. slogans.

The *New York Herald Tribune* has admitted that its (i.e. the N.F.L.) state of Viet Nam is a reality while that of the Government (i.e. the Saigon regime) is merely a mirage. It is now an open secret that whole wards of Saigon are in fact the Front's domain and a few months ago, Robert Guillian, in a reportage in *Le Monde* said that, from a reliable source, it was estimated that the front had, inside Saigon, the equivalent of a division ready to intervene at first sign.

With the disintegration of the camouflaged colonial regime of the U.S. imperialists and their puppets, a genuine and solid structure of a transitional people's power has been set up in the liberated zone (President Nguyen Huu Tho's report at the second Congress of the N.F.L., Jan. 1964).

Incontestably, it is a State power that the N.F.L. has established for the administration of a territory covering four-fifths of South Viet Nam and sheltering more than 10 million people.

No social strata, no political leanings and no patriotic religious tendencies are absent from N. F. L. Committees and consequently from its State organ.

This State power has effectively created its specialised organizations and services as required by the needs of the fighting and daily life so as to ensure law and order, conduct the patriotic war, run diplomacy, economy and finance, and develop and maintain communition lines, education, culture, public health and social welfare institutions.

Foreign visitors were surprised at the new and healthy way of life of the people, masters of their destiny in the liberated zone. Here, the people enjoy fundamental democratic rights and freedoms. More than 2 million hectares of land have been distributed to the peasants. Land ownership incontestably constitutes the essential democratic right for the peasantry, representing over 80 per cent of the population. The sound agrarian policy of the N.F.L. was one of the driving forces of the uprising of the peasants against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their puppets who had grabbed back the land by force of arms in the interest of landlords. It is this policy that constitutes the decisive factor of the development of agricultural production, fundamental economic sector of the liberated zone.

What is more, as everybody knows, the Front has achieved a real revolution in public health and culture. Virtually all villages have their own medical stations and maternity homes. A comprehensive system of medical training has even been organised in spite of the war and the conditions of jungle life. By 1965, about 80 per cent of the school-age children were able to go to school. Illiteracy has been in the main wiped out in the liberated zone.

The brilliant success of these activities in internal affairs illustrates the strength and vitality of the Front's political regime and its State organ. They put their immense authority at the service of the South Vietnamese people.

In the field of external relations, the Front also receives tremendous international support: in the socialist countries, in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America now struggling for their own national emancipation, and among the masses and peace - and justice-loving people all over the world, including the U.S. They recognise the N.F.L. as the only force truly representative of the fundamental aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, and in a strong position to mobilise the people and lead them in the present national anti-U.S. struggle. The authority of the N.F.L. extends beyond South Viet Nam's frontier because it champions a just cause and advocates a sound foreign policy of national independence, peace and neutrality.

Under these different aspects, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is unquestionably the sole authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people.

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE MORE RESOLVED THAN EVER TO DEFEAT COMPLETELY THE U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS

(Continued from page 4)

More than 2,600 U.S. aircraft have been shot down over the paddies and towns of North Viet Nam. The successive bumper crops together with the successes recorded in all other spheres of activity have thrown a strong light on our ability of resisting victoriously the U.S. war of destruction while pushing ahead socialist construction. The longer we fight the stronger our country becomes and the firmer is our people's determination to fight and win final victory.

In **South Viet Nam**, *throughout the past seven years since it was founded, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation with its 10 - point programme issued earlier and the newly proclaimed Political Programme which has proved a great centre of attraction and a rallying point of the patriotic forces in South Viet Nam, and with its people's war and People's Liberation Armed Forces, has held high the victorious banner of the South Vietnamese people. Under its leadership the South Vietnamese people have inflicted failure on the U.S. "special war," overthrown the dictatorship of Ngo Dinh Diem and are defeating the "local war" of the U.S. involving more than half a million American and satellite troops, and disrupt the puppet administration and army. The N.F.L. has become today the only force in South Viet Nam to shape the destiny of the people as well as the trend of the situation there. The prestige of the Front is on the rise in all parts of the world. Ever since its coming into existence the N.F.L. has proved equal to the Vietnamese people's tradition of struggle for national liberation. For this reason, the Front is unquestionably the sole authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people.*

This is an undeniable truth.

The Front's appeal for the determiation to win in the current 1967 Winter — 1968 Spring has resounded far and wide in the country and has been warmly responded to by the South Vietnamese Liberation forces and people with resounding victories. In October and November this year they put out of action more than 40,000 enemy troops including 20 G.I.s and satellite soldiers. In terms of units, 21 battalions (9 of them American) were put out of action. More victories have been recorded to mark the 7th founding anniversary of the N.F.L. Meanwhile, the Political Programme of the Front is permeating larger and larger social strata of the urban population in South Viet Nam, showing them the path of solidarity to resist U.S. aggression, for national salvation, and further swelling the ranks of the resistance front. The Political Programme has also had widespread repercussions in the world, throwing the enemy into still greater political isolation. These facts have exposed all the more clearly to the world the predicament, failure and passivity of the U.S. aggressors, and the strength, the initiative and winning position of the South Viet Nam patriotic forces.

The U.S. aggressors remain stubborn and reckless in their war escalation plan. However, their situation is an utter stalemate and hopeless predicament. Promoting the tradition of thorough-going revolution, the Vietnamese people are continuing their irresistible march, surmounting all difficulties and hardships, slighting all the threats or deceptive words of the enemy, are determined to defeat the aggression of U.S. imperialism and write more glorious pages in the saga of the history of their national liberation movement.

TO DEFEAT U.S. IMPERIALISM...

(Continued from page 5)

THE WORLD'S PEOPLE SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLE

THE great resistance war of our people against U.S. aggression for national salvation is ***part and parcel*** of the struggle of the oppressed and revolutionary people the world over against imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, to achieve peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. Our victory is also that of the revolutionary forces in the world, that is why the movement in support of our people has developed vigorously and broadly under most varied forms. Our people and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. highly value this precious support and assistance from our brothers and friends in all parts of the world.

Loyal to the foreign policy of peace and neutrality which guarantees our national independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and defends world peace, ***the South Vietnamese people and N.F.L. always strengthen the unity and friendly relations with all countries which sympathize with and support our people's cause against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.***

We are overjoyed at the splendid development of the militant solidarity between our people and the **Cambodian people** substantiated by the establishment of the N.F.L.'s permanent representation in Cambodia and by the Front's declaration to recognize and respect the present border of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Our people are resolved to support the brother Cambodian people now valiantly struggling for the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of their country. Our people resolutely support the brother **Lao people** now courageously dealing well-deserved blows at the U.S. aggressors to defend their sacred national rights.

The **Soviet Union, China** and the other **socialist countries** have granted us an extremely precious support and assistance in many respects. This assistance is one of the important factors vouching for the success of our just cause.

The peoples of **Asia, Africa, Latin America, West Europe** and **Oceania** and the international and regional **democratic organisations** have been actively supporting our people's just struggle in most varied forms.

Especially the struggle of the **American people** against their government's aggressive war in Viet Nam, which is linked with the struggle for improvement of their living conditions and the Black people's movement against racial discrimination has developed powerfully in the U.S. Hundreds of thousands of people have turned out into the streets to demonstrate and demand that their government end its war, withdraw U.S. troops from South Viet Nam and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

We warmly hail and unstintedly support the American people's struggle against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam, and actively support the just struggle of the Black Americans for their fundamental national rights.

Our people and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. highly assess the success of the session of the **Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal** which has clearly exposed the U.S. imperialists' crime of aggression, crime of war, and crime against mankind. These sessions eloquently confirmed that the whole progressive mankind is on our side.

The support and assistance given us by our brothers and friends in all continents constitutes a great encouragement and strong stimulus to our people in their struggle against U.S. imperialism, the enemy of the people throughout the world.

Responding to this great and valuable support and assistance, our people are resolved to fight and win complete victory whatever the cost, fulfil our sacred national task as well as our obligation toward the world people's revolutionary cause.

THE SOUTH VIET NAM P.L.A.F...

(Continued from page 8)

units. On February 15, 1961, under the banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, those people's armed forces were unified into a single organisation within the Front. They constitute the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces comprising three categories of troops (main force, regional, and guerilla units) with a relatively complete organisation under the unified direction of the High Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

UNDER the skilful leadership of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., guided by the line of the people's war, the People's Liberation Armed Forces have played the role of a nucleus in the resistance against American aggression, for national salvation, waged by the 14 million people and fighters of heroic South Viet Nam. Right in the first days following their reunification, the People's Liberation Armed Forces recorded brilliant exploits, countering an enemy raid in Vinh Loi and annihilating a company (April 1961), overrunning the town of Phuoc Thanh (September 1961), killing Nguyen Dinh Man, the puppet provincial chief, freeing 400 people from the provincial jail; capturing hundreds of weapons and tons of ammunition. Like tree shoots under a spring rain, the People's Liberation Armed Forces grew up like the legendary hero Phu Dong. The more they fought, the stronger they grew, the more victories they recorded, and the more glorious pages they added to the list of their exploits.

The historic Ap Bac victory (January 2, 1963) marked another turning point in the history of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces: they foiled the "heliborne" tactics of the U.S.-Diem forces and showed their ability to defeat the American imperialists' "special war." In the period from the Ap Bac victory to the Binh Gia victory (January 3, 1965) that possibility became a reality: winning repeated victories, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces annihilated whole companies, then whole battalions of enemy troops. At Binh Gia they destroyed a whole puppet task force, threatening the puppet army, the backbone of the Americans' "special war," with imminent collapse.

From 1965 up to now, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have undergone fierce trials of strength with the American aggressors, the number one enemy, most dangerous and cruel for our people and the peoples of the world. They defeated two successive strategic dry season counter-offensives (1965-1966 and 1966-1967) of the Americans, scoring ever bigger successes:

First dry season (1965-1966):

— 114,000 *enemy troops put out of action (among them* 43,000 *American and satellite troops);* 30 *battalions entirely annihilated (among them* 14 *American and satellite battalions).*

— 1,440 *American aircraft of various types shot down or destroyed on the ground.*

— 1,310 *military vehicles destroyed,* 27 *vessels sunk.*

Second dry season (1966-1967):

— 175,000 *enemy troops put out of action (among them* 70,000 *American and* 15,000 *satellite troops),* 49 *battalions entirely annihilated (among them* 24 *American and satellite battalions).*

— 1,800 *aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground.*

— 3,985 *military vehicles,* 340 *heavy guns,* 100 *vessels destroyed.*

AT present, with their forces amounting to half a million American troops and 700,000 puppet and satellite troops, the American imperialists are finding themselves in a situation in South Viet Nam, being driven ever deeper into the desperate defensive, and to passivity in strategy, tactics and actual combat. The more the Liberation Armed Forces fight on, the stronger they grow. They keep the initiative in all battlefields and force the American aggressors to fight in the way they (the P.L.A.F.) have chosen, knocking them about and pushing them into a quagmire in which they could not bring their possibilities into full play. Having annihilated whole American battalions in winter 1965-spring 1966, the People's Liberation Armed Forces destroyed a whole American brigade (the 196th Light Brigade) in winter 1966-spring 1967, and defeated in one single battle two American brigades and one puppet task force (the 173rd American Brigade destroyed; the 1st Brigade of the 4th American Division and the puppet paratroop task force badly mauled in Dac To in November 1967). The possibility for the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces to entirely defeat the American imperialists' "local warfare" strategy in South Viet Nam has become an undeniable truth.

NOT quite seven years have elapsed since their founding, a relatively short period in the historyo f a revolutionary army. But the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. have constantly acted on the offensive, constantly placing themselves in the position of victors. They have proved to be a redoubtable adversary for the American aggressors, and worthy of the confidence and love of our entire people. They are a people's revolutionary army, an invincible army.

TRAN HIEN

The P.L.A.F. Continue ...

(Continued from page 8)

blew up Binh Tien bridge 13km from Saigon, sealing off Highway 4.

The night before (December 10) the P.L.A.F. had annihilated an American company at Nhat Tao in Tan Tru district, Cho Lon province. The 150 G.I.'s killed or wounded included 1 major, 1 captain and 3 lieutenants, junior grade.

The repeated victories of the P.L.A.F. in Nam Bo bespeak their initiative in action and strong position. Thus, right in the centre of Saigon, in the night of December 16, the Liberation fighters penetrated the Literature University close to Nguyen Van Thieu's residence and 2 theatres in Cho Lon to address thousands of students and the people of Saigon-Cho Lon about the significance of the founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (December 20). (Previously on November 22, six big N.F.L. flags had been flown over Thai Binh market). That is why *UPI* called it "a meeting in the shadow of the Independence Palace." Besides, the Liberation fighters entered many housing and working quarters of the Americans and wicked puppet agents in Saigon and its suburbs, and punished many who were guilty of crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

SOUTH VIETNAM

THE P. L. A. F. CONTINUE TO DEAL HARD BLOWS AT THE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND THEIR QUISLINGS

IN the second week of December, Nam Bo was still the theatre of most violent battles.

The greatest P.L.A.F. victory took place in Can Tho province, in Ca Mau plain. On December 8, the enemy mustered 5 puppet main force battalions in an attempt to relieve their beleaguered positions in the Xa No canal, Vinh Tuong Road and Highway 40. Attacked by the P.L.A.F. from morning till night, more than 600 enemy troops were killed, wounded and captured. Battalion 3 of Regiment 31 and a battalion of special forces were wiped out, 3 helicopters and 1 jet were shot down ; enemy corpses littered Thac Lac field. In the evening, an enemy post was attacked and 32 puppet troops killed or captured. The next day, 2 other puppet battalions and 2 armoured squadrons were rushed in as reinforcements. Intercepted by the P.L.A.F., they lost 250 men killed and wounded, including 1 puppet main force company nearly wiped out; 4 helicopters, 1 jet fighter and 1 L-19 reconnaissance plane were shot down, and 4 armoured cars set afire. The reinforcement column had to regroup for self-defence. But U.S. planes came and strafed it, causing over 100 casualties among the enemy. A way of prodding by the American bosses!

On the night of December 9, the P.L.A.F. kept on shelling Vi Thanh town and Mot Ngan military subsector, inflicting considerable losses upon the enemy. The night before, a post of this military subsector had been assaulted and razed, one platoon had all its 32 men killed or captured.

Thus, within 2 days, the P.L.A.F. skilfully lured the enemy out of their fortifications and killed, wounded and captured 1,000 of them including 2 battalions and 1 company wiped out, and 3 battalions routed.

THE second P.L.A.F. victory worth noticing was the engagement in Duc Hue district, 30 km west of Saigon. Here also the P. L. A .F. cleverly enticed the enemy out of their defence to crush them. On the night of December 14, they attacked the enemy in Duc Hue military subsector. The next morning, the latter hastened to launch a raid to break through the encirclement. In the first wave, the P.L.A.F. ambushed and wiped out 2 companies in 15 minutes. In the second wave, they dug in firmly in their defences and repelled 4 assaults, inflicting heavy losses upon their opponent. When the enemy's forces were badly mauled, their morale sinking and their formations disrupted, the P.L.A.F. counter-attacked in force and did away with the remnant troops. According to initial reports, on December 15 alone the P.L.A.F. destroyed 1 main force battalion and 2 puppet commando companies, captured 20 soldiers, shot down 3 helicopters and 1 L-19 reconnaissance plane, and seized hundreds of fire-arms.

THE Mekong delta (also in Nam Bo) witnessed 2 other P.L.A.F. remarkable successes. In Ben Tre province, on December 7 and 8, the P.L.A.F. raided Mo Cay district town, wiped out 9 posts, shelled many other positions, cut off many communication lines from Ben Tre to Mo Cay, from Ben Tre to Giong Trom, Huong My and Cai Mon. Nearly 400 enemy troops were killed and wounded, 1 aircraft shot down, 2 artillery pieces and many storages and barracks destroyed.

Another engagement occurred on the night of December 8 10 km north of Bac Lieu town (190 km southwest of Saigon). Here, the P.L.A.F. stormed the encampment of Battalion 1, Regiment 33, puppet Division 21, knocking down the whole garrison except about 30 soldiers.

MEANWHILE, in Eastern Nam Bo, after being beaten at Loc Ninh, Bu Dop, Hon Quan, Ca Tum... on December 8, the enemy mounted an operation on Trai Bi (Highway 22) and on Ca Tum near the Cambodian border, in the hope of relieving the P.L.A.F. pressure north of Tay Ninh province. On December 13, a column fighting its way 12 km south of Ca Tum was attacked by the guerillas and regional troops: 2 compagnies were wiped out. The remnant troops fled helter skelter. It was not until the next day that helicopters came to pick up the corpses of American "advisors," leaving in the battlefield more than 70 dead puppet soldiers.

On December 14, the column operating northeast and northwest of Ca Tum was also intercepted : 1 U.S. company was destroyed and 3 other companies badly mauled.

According to still incomplete figures, in the theatre north of Tay Ninh the P.L.A.F. put out of action 2 puppet and 1 U.S. marine, decimated 3 other U.S. companies, blew up 15 armoured cars and brought down 11 aircraft.

MOREOVER, on the night of December 11, the P.L.A.F. assaulted 1 puppet marine company guarding Tan Son Nhat airfield, destroying it almost completely. At the same time the guerillas

(Continued page 7)

THE SOUTH VIET NAM P. L. A. F. AN INVINCIBLE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

THE South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces of which the Liberation Army is the main force, is an ever victorious revolutionary army, feared by the enemy and warmly hailed by the people. They have to this day firmly maintained the initiative on all battlefields of South Viet Nam, winning victory in each battle, in a resounding and continuous manner ; they fight in the daytime or at night, in the forest, the plain, or along the coast, in the cities or the countryside, on land or on water, recording marvellous and thunderous exploits. It is because they come from the people and serve the people.

LIKE all revolutionary armies, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have started from scratch and have grown ever bigger and stronger.

In the years from 1956 to 1959, the extremely ferocious repression and terror of the U.S.-Diem regime compelled our compatriots in South Viet Nam to take up arms for self-defence, forming themselves into small groups of guerillas engaged in scattered action within enemy encirclement. Fighting for years under the watchword of the "Five Noes" (no track when marching, no smoke when cooking, no noise when speaking, no sound when coughing, no smell when defecating) the guerillas relied on the people's help, support and protection, on their own intelligence and resourfulness, prompted by their hatred of the enemy and their great courage, using rudimentary home-made weapons such as spikes, spears, "mantis" guns (so-called because of their shape). They grew ever more mature and experienced, gradually forming bigger guerilla groups with a greater range of action, and equipped themselves with weapons captured from the enemy.

IN 1960, the movement of "simultaneous insurrections" broke out tempestuously, creating conditions for the People's Liberation Armed Forces to grow by leaps and bounds, launch fierce attacks on the enemy, and win important battles such as the one at Tua Hai in Tay Ninh province in March of that year, in which 300 enemy troops were killed, 200 captured, over a thousand guns and plenty of ammunition and military equipment seized. The Tua Hai victory was a turning point in the growth of the South Viet Nam guerilla forces, which now formed bigger and stronger, relatively more concentrated

(Continued page 7)

NORTH VIETNAM

47 U.S. PLANES DOWNED IN 7 DAYS (INCLUDING 2 B.52 SUPER - BOMBERS)

IN the week ending December 20, in the new U.S. raids on Hanoi, Hai Phong and other localities, our A.A. defence downed 47 jet planes, or 7 per day on the average. On Dec. 17 alone, the aggressors lost 14 planes. On Dec. 20, at 4.20 p.m., intercepting 3 waves of B.52 strato-fortresses, our gunners downed 2 (this kind of plane weighs 200 tons and costs 9 million dollars each). The 4th Military Zone which includes the five southern provinces of the D.R.V.N. has to its credit 1,000 U.S. planes downed over its territory. Let's remember that 2 B.52s had been grounded on Sept. 17 and the third one on Oct. 29, 1967.

In this week, Hanoi downed 17 planes (10 during the U.S. raids on Dec. 18 and 19) and Hai Phong 4.

Our fighter planes have contributed their part to this achievement by bringing down 10 enemy planes, including 5 on Dec. 17.

With their light weapons, militiamen knocked down 3 planes (2 at night). A remarkable fact is that on Dec. 17 at 0.40 hour, a militia unit of 11 old men aged from 50 to 60, inspired by the example of the old militiamen of Thanh Hoa province, downed a F.4 *Phantom* with 30 cartridges.

ON Dec. 18, a war vessel of the Seventh Fleet was set afire by our coastal batteries off Thanh Hoa province.

UP to December 20, our armed forces downed 2,669 U.S. planes and damaged 63 U.S. vessels.

U.S. armoured vehicles destroyed by the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F.